

Inside **THE MAGIC BOX**



Seth Kallen Deitch



Inside the Magic Box: A collection of assemblage and altered objects,
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Preface

The objects in this book were made over a long period of time. Some date from the '80s, some were made during the last few years. Some of them were made quite some time ago, but had to age in order to become what they were supposed to be. Dust, yellowing and damage are strong ingredients in many of these pieces. I won't be insulted if you might not consider some of them "art". Bits of whimsy, "recontextualized objects" or "ready-mades" are fitting terms for some. Indeed on several of these the actual labor in producing them or at least the seed that would become them may have only required a few seconds. There are others that are very intricate and labor intensive. The original 1928 prototype was constructed over a few weeks in 1990, the first of several devices made for the one shot magazine, The Journal of the Institute for Parallel Studies, and one of only a few which survive.



Virgin's Blood of Uqbar was intended to be an edition of three, but I only fully completed one which now is in the collection of Donna Abbate. I have one that is very nearly complete and another that is even less so. Making an edition of an object of that sort where all are identical was a challenge I just wasn't up to. Each was supposed to have a fitted, satin-lined wooden case. I made two of them and damaged one of them and called it quits there. Making object pieces isn't something I generally devote a lot of time to, so if a thing isn't working I do tend to drop it.

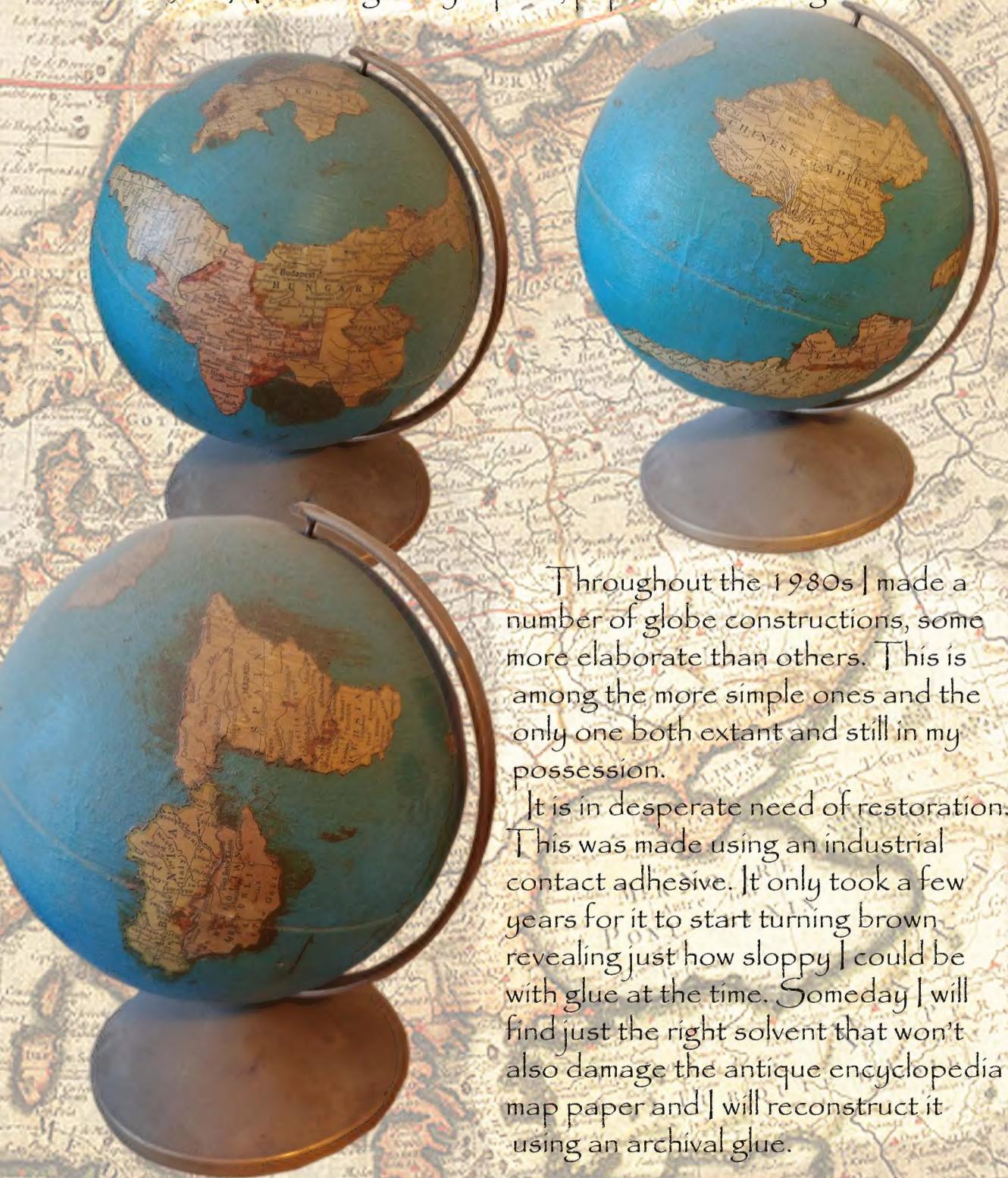
These pieces are as much about story telling as anything. Most of them come with a legend or a myth about their provenance, some of them wildly improbable, not even belonging to the common human reality. Some fare better without any attempt to justify existence. Sometimes you must judge why someone might have sold tiny bottles of School Boy Tears of Shame. Some are only meant to be looked at, others must be handled to properly experience them.



I think that perhaps every time I make an object and tell a story about it, I am setting out to make a whole world, but the object that sits on the shelf or that you hold in your hand is some tiny bit of that world that protrudes into ours. It is an invader that pokes at your sense of reality and challenges you to fit it into your perceptions.

Terra Incognita

1984 Assemblage acrylic paint, paper on 8" metal globe



Throughout the 1980s I made a number of globe constructions, some more elaborate than others. This is among the more simple ones and the only one both extant and still in my possession.

It is in desperate need of restoration. This was made using an industrial contact adhesive. It only took a few years for it to start turning brown revealing just how sloppy I could be with glue at the time. Someday I will find just the right solvent that won't also damage the antique encyclopedia map paper and I will reconstruct it using an archival glue.

Mollot Cells

In 1906, Alexander Rodman Mollot built the first device to produce a measurable static gravity. He had been exploring the idea that a "solid state" substitute for the DeForest tubes could be found.

He had tried everything including various clays and gemstones without any substantial success. He was near the end of looking at a variety of metals and was planning to move on to what he called 'layered silicon doping' when he noticed something strange happening with quartz crystals and powdered titanium.

Having left some crystals in titanium powder that he was accidentally deposited on a few days later that strange phenomenon container. A sort of developed, but not but rather what "flow of suggested modern terms,

Later that year three terminals device to be put to positive or "input" or "bleeder" or "phase" terminal. Valdmor Poulsen, the recording, had stumbled found no use for it in his used to power low gravity Determinators and Ludiscopes.



a bronze cup a small amount of experimenting with was top of them. It was not until Dr. Mollot discovered a in the area of the a "charge" had of the electrical type Mollot described as a mass" or in more 'static gravity.'

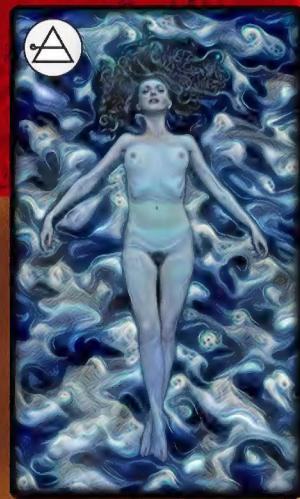
Mollot found the that allowed this practical use, the terminal, the negative terminal and the neutral About ten years earlier father of magnetic upon a similar device but research. Today this device is magnetic generators for

With the discovery of the Mollot cell modern parallel resonance technology became possible and A.R. Mollot devoted the rest of his life to the implementation of these devices. By the time of his death in 1942, he had seen the fruit of his work change the world whereas he might have wasted his life in the pursuit of the chimera of a solid state vacuum tube.



The Alchemical Classical Element Molecule Model Set

The idea literally came to me in a dream to create a set of cards showing the classical elements of Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Aether that could be used to create “hands” that represented combinations not unlike molecular models. I put six of each in the set plus two Void cards making a deck of thirty-two. The Voids were not part of the dream, but they completed the alchemical double tetrahedron. That would take more time to explain than one page. A number of people have suggested that a card game could be created with these as well. I made an edition of the set and several people have them. No card game yet.



Open the Soap Duckets!



**Box construction from sometime in the '90s.
Collection of Philip Borenstein.
I had forgotten this even existed until
Philip brought it to my attention.**

The Pocket Resonator

Of the various devices constructed for the Institute for Parallel Studies, this is by far the smallest. A parallel Resonant Field Translator built in a pocket compass case.

Certain investigations in Parallel Science



need to be conducted without drawing too much attention, ideally with none at all, but bulky equipment often makes that unreasonably difficult.

This is the smallest PRFT ever made. It was made for the purpose of identifying xenolithic signatures on objects during the Great War to determine if weapons were being brought in from xenocontinua during one spy mission. The mission went horribly wrong, but the device itself was recovered before it fell into enemy hands.

As a result the secret of the device was preserved for another generation and the balance of power was maintained.

The Original 1928 Prototype

This peculiar device was found in an abandoned house near Elmyra, New York in 1961 during its demolition.

The only information concerning it was a yellowed label affixed to one side of the case identifying it as "the original 1928 prototype."

In the fifty-six years since its discovery no one has been able to fully delve the purpose of this mysterious apparatus. Soon after it was found it was discovered that a, six volt DC current introduced across the terminals would cause the transparent roller to shift back and forth seemingly at random and a tiny corona discharge would form between two needle sharp points below and to the left of an eight sided prism of unknown purpose. A high static charge would build around a metal stud which protruded through the case right next to the knife switch which activated the mechanism. After a few years, even these cryptic functions ceased.

The device is now, apparently, broken.

At least three attempts have been made to duplicate the device,



all of them failures. The first raised the temperature of every glass object within three feet by one degree centigrade and then burned out, the second did nothing that anyone could detect. The third was an "improved" model built as a research project by an MIT student in 1982. When powered up it started to behave like the original before it, like the original, permanently stopped working. The student who built it claimed that he saw something move in the tiny glass plate held in the metal cone above the roller before it stopped. No one else saw it.

The original device was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. in 2015.

Virgin's Blood of Uqbar

This product first reached European shores with the expeditions of Marco Polo in the late thirteenth century. The ladies of Venice were immediately taken with it and the demand was high. There were bold claims as to its properties. It was said that a small amount mixed with olive oil would remove blemishes and impart a rosy glow to the skin, a drop added to wine would lead to inner purification even implying that sins might be expunged. This claim caused some concern to the archbishop Lorenzo Di Parma who nonetheless made sure he had a personal supply. It was also said that the substance could serve as a fixative in apocalyptic visions. Some even avowed that it was the sovereign elixir of youth itself. It was agreed by all that this was the most powerful of unguents, restoratives and panaceas.

By the time a second was three times its weight it were happy to obtain it at never afford a full bottle.

The source of the Uqbari people were alchemists and decoctions and

shipment arrived the price of a small bottle had outstripped gold by weight, indeed the going rate in gold inclusive of the bottle itself and Venetians as well as foreigners who had become aware of any price. Several persons made a good business reselling it by the drop or dram to those who could

product was distant Uqbar located in a nigh impassible mountain region of Asia. The farmers, herders and tradesmen, but were also well known for their philosophers, mystics. Indeed, they had in those times made excellent trade in various formulations extracts produced by their many medical and alchemical savants.

Virgin's Blood was exactly that. It was determined to be human blood that had been treated or magicked in some fashion to prevent it from clotting and had herbal additives in small amounts. It was obtained in a non-harmful manner from maidens who had experienced their first blood but still resided beneath innocent of the company pure in every way. would pay the father goats or sixteen bushels to draw one hundred and

One of the local physicians of such a girl either two of barley or 4 silver qofs twenty-eight drams of manner that it caused

blood, enough to make six small bottles of the preparation. The blood had to be drawn in such a no pain whatsoever to the maiden and each girl could only be bled a single time by Uqbari law thus no father, unless he had a great many daughters, would ever gain substantial wealth through this avenue.

Until the earliest years of the twentieth century this product reached western markets in decreasing amounts as fewer of the Uqbari people chose to live their people's traditional lifestyle. In the early nineteen twenties, the land that was once Uqbar became part of the Soviet Union and her people became workers under the new regime dispersed into the great mass of the country. The language, history and customs of this tiny nation all disappeared within a few short years. There are very few people alive in the twenty-first century for whom both parents are Uqbari or know anything of Ölùqbär, their national language.

Bottles of Virgin's Blood do turn up from time to time. Empty flasks with a tiny bit of residue are the most common and those are still considered quite desirable to collectors.

Much more rarely a bottle that has part of the contents remaining, usually long crystallized, is discovered. Thus it was considered an important occasion that a sealed full flask turned up at auction in twenty thirteen and sold for a price that would be considered unconscionable to anyone with an ounce of sanity. That is the bottle you see before you.

We cannot in good conscience endorse any of the rumored effects associated with this substance and in fact must inform that consuming it in any way will have unknown consequences.

Just don't.



A rare sample of the Ölùqbär language from a bottle of Virgin's Blood.

PHASMACONOSCOPE

The phasmaconoscope was built with the idea in mind that light entering through the lens would be directed onto the sensitized Selenium doped circular plate which was de-phased with a Mollot cell while a constant flow of cool Nitrogen gas would bathe the plate. An electric current from a small dry cell battery charges the plate thus creating a barely visible corona discharge.



The entire apparatus is then cooled to a temperature of 6.66667 degrees centigrade. Once this state has been achieved, the small triangular screen is illuminated by a steady light with a wavelength of 6410 ångströms. When this is done properly, nothing of note takes place.



All We Have Of Koslov

Old mason jar, paper, ashes, partial dental plate, dust.



Who was Koslov and what was Koslov's fate? The contents of this distressed looking jar are the only clue we have. The label bears a date of 1952 when we surmise that the contents were committed to this receptacle. There is only about a half a cup of ash in there with the denture which appears to have only been



exposed to a minor amount of heat. If these were cremated remains, we would expect that the denture would be gone except for the metal parts, but it is virtually intact, only the slightest but deformed. Also a cremated human body produces considerably more ash than is seen here. Is the contents of the jar actually Koslov, whomever that might be? This is unknowable.

Now the jar occupies a shelf in the apartment of a penniless hipster. These days it is rarely dusted, moved or even noticed.

A simple Folon wave detector

Here is a project that you can make in an afternoon that will get plenty of attention at the science fair! Take a small bottle, any will do so long as it is clear glass. You will need some Isone salt treated wax beads. I got mine out of a few old OEC converters, but you can also order them online at little expense.

In their normal state they are bright blue. Half fill your bottle with them. Next solder a short length of copper wire to a ball bearing. Push the wire through a cork that fits the

bottle and trim the wire so only a tiny bit protrudes into the bottle's interior and cork the bottle with it.. Remember that the wire must be trimmed nearly flush with the bottom of the cork for best results.

YOU ARE DONE!



If you place this near a source of Folon waves like any sort of parallel field device, the Isone beads will change from blue to red! The detector can also be placed on a postal scale so you can show the loss of mass in the converted state!



I keep one of these on a shelf near my home made PRFT to detect any random xenocontinuum interlace at all times

Not excited by
Folon Waves

Remember that you should wear rubber gloves when handling anything that has been in contact with Isone salts. Exposure can cause irrational notions, delusions of grandeur or personal power. If accidental exposure occurs, try to calm down, have a cup of tea and remind yourself that you do not actually have super powers, that it is only a hallucination that will pass in an hour or so. Have fun!

Excited by
Folon waves!

THE SAMPLE FROM SITE #61

This tiny vial contains slightly under two cc of a thick, dark red, oily fluid. I am told that if opened it emits a truly horrifying odor that has been described as equal parts burning circuit board, rotten eggs and death. Not recommended.



Where this site #61 is fact I am not privileged to have to good luck not to wouldn't care to visit in any case. According to the yellowed paper label that has been repaired more than once with equally yellow Scotch Tape, it was collected on the tenth of June in 1949.

located exactly is a know, or perhaps I know it. Someplace I



THE GAMING CUBE II

THE CONTAINER IS 4" HIGH.
UPON LIFTING IT ONE COULD BE
FORGIVEN FOR BELIEVING THAT IT
WAS A CYLINDER OF SOLID STEEL.
UNSCREW THE TWO HALVES AND IT IS
REVEALED TO HAVE WALLS ONLY 1/8"
THICK. IT IS MADE FROM TUNGSTEN AND HAS
A SIMILAR SPECIFIC GRAVITY TO GOLD.



INSIDE IS THE 1" BAKELITE
GAMING CUBE INSCRIBED ON
SIDES WITH SYMBOLS FOR
GOOD, EVIL, BIRTH, DEATH,
SUN AND MOON.



THIS IS THE SECOND VERSION OF
THIS OBJECT. THE FIRST IS IN THE
COLLECTION OF KIMBERLY ROGERS.
IN THE FIRST VERSION THE CUBE IS
INSCRIBED WITH PRIMITIVE,
MYSTERIOUS GLYPHS.



Untitled Box Construction

circa 2000 wood, glass, paint, paper, metal pins.

I literally made this because I found an ideal box. It is at least seventy years old and heavy duty. It originally had a sliding wood top and contained stove bolts. I lost the lid, but it indicated something about the size and pitch of the bolts. In spite of the fact it is a mass produced object it looks really beat up and rustic.



I liked the idea of the lady floating in space. My first idea was to compose it vertically and I even started to make it that way, but I tore it all down and started again in landscape format which I found more satisfying. Except for the lady herself, all of the images come out of some astronomy books for kids that I got at a yard sale.

The Cosmic Particle

Assemblage:

Windowed box with dust, block of glass, small Nickle/Iron meteorite and explanatory tag written in Latin.



A free translation of the tag:

"From the depths of Heaven fell down a piece of the dark night to no longer be a part of that world. From then it came to pass that became a stranger on the Earth. Now it has settled in God's land. But it is now Gold."





Xenoconective Interface Antenna

A turned graphite post is affixes to a composite steel and brass block to create a solid leveling with this continuum. A Mollot cell with its phase terminal elevated 19 degrees from datum is used to create a pulsed interruption in a special multi pin bleeder terminal which induces a barely visible xenocontinuuual “shadow” of the grounded graphite antenna. Effectively the antenna has a dual presence here and *elsewhere*.



By using this device fairly deep probes can be made with low power equipment including the recovery of low mass xenolites! The Interface Antenna put xenolite recovery into the hands of amateur enthusiasts everywhere from Indiana to Tannu Tuva!

Today these are simply incorporated into PRFT equipment and are sealed within an equipment casing. Yes these modern PRFTs are ultra-reliable, but to me something is lost from those days when we had to cobble our set together from mail order parts and bits of wire found out in the barn.



